

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

1 Claim 6 (previously presented): A method of operating a communications device, the  
2 method comprising:  
3           accessing a voice message system;  
4           retrieving, over a public telephone network, a voice message from the  
5 voice message system;  
6           generating a digital audio file representing said message;  
7           storing the retrieved voice message in a memory device from which  
8 the service subscriber can retrieve messages by telephone;  
9           sending, using at least one Internet Protocol (IP) packet, the digital  
10 audio file representing said message to a service subscriber;  
11           receiving a reply to said sending the digital audio file;  
12           deleting the retrieved message from said voice message system in  
13 response to receiving said reply; and  
14           in response to receiving said reply, deleting the retrieved message  
15 from the memory device.

Claim 7 (canceled)

1 Claim 8 (canceled):

1 Claim 9 (previously presented): A method of operating a communications device, the  
2 method comprising:  
3           accessing a first voice message system;  
4           retrieving, over a public telephone network, a voice message from the  
5 first voice message system;

6 generating a digital audio file representing said message;  
7 sending, using at least one Internet Protocol (IP) packet, the digital  
8 audio file representing said message to a service subscriber;  
9 storing a first prompt message;  
10 determining from subscriber input when the first prompt message  
11 should be loaded onto said first voice message system; and  
12 determining from said subscriber input when the first prompt message  
13 should be loaded onto a second voice message system.  
14

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 placing a call to said first voice message system; and  
3 loading said answering first voice message system with the first  
4 prompt\_message.

1 Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 10, further comprising the  
2 step of:  
3 determining from subscriber input when a second prompt message  
4 should be loaded onto said first voice message system.

1 Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further comprising the  
2 step of:  
3 placing an additional call to said first voice message system; and  
4 loading the second prompt message into said first voice message  
5 system.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the step of determining from  
2 subscriber input when the first prompt message should be loaded includes the step of:  
3 accessing a prompt message schedule generated from subscriber input.

Claim 14 (canceled)

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of controlling a voice message system,  
2 comprising:  
3 receiving an E-mail message indicating that a voice message retrieved  
4 from said voice message system and forwarded to a service subscriber was reviewed;  
5 in response to receiving said E-mail message, accessing said voice  
6 message system by:  
7 placing a telephone call to said voice message system  
8 over a telephone network; and  
9 sending a control signal to said voice message system  
10 over said telephone network causing said retrieved voice message to  
11 be deleted from said voice message system.

1 Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein a voice message retrieval and  
2 forwarding device is used to place said call and to send said control signal, the  
3 method further comprising the step of:  
4 in response to receiving said E-mail message, operating the voice  
5 message retrieval and forwarding device to delete a copy of the retrieved voice  
6 message from a storage device included in the voice message retrieval and forwarding  
7 device.

1 Claim 17 (previously presented): A method of controlling a voice message system,  
2 comprising:  
3 receiving an E-mail message indicating that a voice message retrieved  
4 from said voice message system and forwarded to a service subscriber was reviewed;  
5 operating a subscriber computer system to automatically generate said  
6 E-mail message when a user of the subscriber computer system accesses an E-mail  
7 message which includes said retrieved message as an attached audio file;

8                   in response to receiving said automatically generated E-mail message,  
9           accessing said voice message system by placing a telephone call to said voice  
10          message system over a telephone network; and  
11                   sending a control signal to said voice message system over said  
12          telephone network causing said retrieved voice message to be deleted from said voice  
13          message system.

Claims 18-35 (canceled)